

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A method for printing on a surface, comprising:
providing a digital picture;
providing at least one ultraviolet ink;
depositing the ultraviolet ink on the surface to form a printed picture
corresponding to the digital picture; and
curing the ultraviolet ink.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
segmenting the digital picture into at least a first and second segment;
transmitting the first segment to a first print head;
transmitting the second segment to the second print head;
by means of the first print head, depositing the ultraviolet ink on the surface to
form a first printed segment corresponding to the first segment; and
by means of the second print head, depositing the ultraviolet ink on the surface
to form a second printed segment corresponding to the second segment.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein:
the first and second segments are adjacent portions of the picture; and
the first and second printed segments are aligned in the same manner as the
first and second segments.
4. The method of claim 1, further comprising depositing the ultraviolet ink on the
surface to form a border around the printed picture.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the border obscures at least a portion of the printed picture.
6. The method of claim 2, further comprising:
creating a border around the digital picture; and wherein
the step of segmenting the digital picture into at least a first and second segment further comprises segmenting the border into at least a first and second border segment, the first border segment obscuring a portion of the first segment and the second border segment obscuring a portion of the second segment.
7. The method of claim 6, wherein:
the step of by means of the first print head, depositing the ultraviolet ink on the surface to form a first printed segment corresponding to the first segment further comprises depositing the ultraviolet ink on the surface to form a first printed border corresponding to the first border segment; and
the step of by means of the second print head, depositing the ultraviolet ink on the surface to form a second printed segment corresponding to the second segment further comprises depositing the ultraviolet ink on the surface to form a second printed border corresponding to the second border segment.
8. The method of claim 1, further comprising feathering the edges of the digital picture.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the surface is one of curved, oblate, or cylindrical.
10. The method of claim 1, further comprising depositing the ultraviolet ink on the surface to form the printed picture within a border pre-printed on the surface.
11. The method of claim 1, wherein the surface is a sports-related object.
12. A method for printing on a surface, comprising:
 - placing the surface in a holder;
 - moving the holder in a first direction to stop beneath at least one print head;
 - depositing an ultraviolet ink from the at least one print head on the surface to form at least a portion of a picture;
 - moving the at least one print head; and
 - depositing the ultraviolet ink from the at least one print head on the surface to form at least a second portion of a picture;
 - wherein the surface is a non-flat, sports-related object.
13. The method of claim 12, further comprising:
 - in response to depositing the ultraviolet ink from the at least one print head on the surface to form at least a second portion of a picture, moving the holder into a curing chamber; and
 - curing the ultraviolet ink in the curing chamber.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the step of moving the holder in a first direction to stop beneath at least one print head comprises moving the holder along a conveyor to a first point; and

the step of moving the holder into a curing chamber comprises moving the holder along the conveyor to a second point, the second point within the curing chamber.

15. The method of claim 12, wherein the step of moving the at least one print head comprises moving the at least one print head in a second direction perpendicularly to the first direction.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the at least a second portion of the picture is adjacent to the at least a first portion of a picture.

17. The method of claim 15, wherein the at least a second portion of the picture at least partially overlaps the at least a first portion of a picture; and

the at least a second portion of the picture is offset from the at least a first portion of a picture by an offset distance.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the offset distance is one pixel.

19. A method for printing a picture on a surface, comprising:

A method for printing on a surface, comprising:

providing a digital picture;

providing at least one ink;

depositing the ink on the surface in a plurality of ink droplets, each of the plurality of ink droplets corresponding to one of a plurality of pixels, the plurality of pixels forming a printed picture corresponding to the digital picture; and

curing the ink; wherein

at least a first ink droplet of the plurality of ink droplets is of a first size; and

at least a second ink droplet of the plurality of ink droplets is of a second size.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein:

the surface is curved;

the first ink droplet forms a first pixel located a first distance along the curvature of the surface from a point corresponding to the center of the printed picture;

the second ink droplet forms a second pixel located a second distance along the curvature of the surface from the point corresponding to the center of the printed picture; and

the first size is smaller than the second size.